

**Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

Applicant: Keith Hoene et al.

Serial No.: 09/887,816

Filed: June 25, 2001

Docket No.: 10007759-1 (H303.210.101)

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMPUTER NETWORK VIRUS EXCLUSION

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 4-6, 8-10, 12-15, 17, 20, 22-23, and 26-27.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 11, 16, 19, 21, and 24-25 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of network computing:

using a virus monitor of a server ~~with a virus monitor~~ to identify at least one client computer that is susceptible to a virus by verifying, directly between the at least one client computer and the virus monitor of the server, that the at least one client computer has comprises at least one of:

a first combination of a client-server connection and a disabled status of a virus protector of the at least one client computer, the disabled status being verified via a direct status query from the virus monitor of the server to the at least one client computer; and

a second combination of an attempted client-server connection and a non-enabled status of the virus protector of the at least one client computer, the non-enabled status being verified via the at least one client computer failing to report enabled virus protection to the virus monitor of the server at the time of the attempted client-server connection; and

automatically isolating the at least one client computer from the server and from a computing network connected to the server by at least one of automatically terminating the client-server connection for the at least one client computer having the disabled status of the virus protector and automatically preventing the attempted client-server connection for the at least one client computer having a non-enabled status of the virus protector.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein using a virus monitor of a server comprises:

scanning the at least one client computer with a virus monitor of at least one of the server and the at least one client computer.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically isolating the at least one client computer comprises:

tracking a client identifier of the at least one client computer; and

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preventing the client-server connection and a network communications between the at least one client computer relative to the computing network.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of maintaining a virus-controlled network computing system comprising:

booting at least one client computer to establish a client-server connection with a server for limited access and to perform a scan by the at least one client computer of the at least one client computer for a virus, including the server establishing the client-server connection only when the at least one client computer includes a virus protection program in an enabled mode;

reporting the results of the virus scan from the at least one client computer to the server; and

selectively ~~permitting~~enabling the at least one client computer general authorized access to the server through the client-server connection when the virus scan report detects no viruses and denying the at least one client computer access to the server when no valid virus report is provided by the at least one client computer;

querying the client periodically to determine if the virus protector of the at least one client computer remains enabled; and

terminating the client-server connection if the virus definitions of the virus protector of the at least one client computer have not been updated within a specified date criteria of the server.

8 -10 (Canceled) .

11. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing network virus migration within a network comprising:

monitoring a virus susceptibility of each client computer of the network to identify at least one virus susceptible client computer based on at least one of directly verifying that

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~~whether~~ a virus protector of the client computer is enabled and ~~that whether~~ the client computer provides a server of the network with a valid virus scan report; ~~and~~  
tracking an address of each virus-susceptible client computer and at least one of  
preventing a client-server connection between each virus-susceptible client computer and the server and terminating a client-server connection between each virus-susceptible client computer and the server; and  
establishing a quarantine of each virus-susceptible client computer to prevent further client-server connections by each quarantined virus-susceptible client computer.

12-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A virus exclusion network system comprising:  
a client computer including:

a controller; and

a virus protector configured for detecting and eradicating viruses on the client computer, for maintaining real-time virus protection, for producing an up-to-date virus scan report to confirm that the client computer is virus-free and that the virus protector is up-to-date, and for producing a notification that the virus protector is enabled;

a network server including a virus monitor configured for preventing an attempted authorized network connection between the client computer and the server when the client computer fails to produce, at the time of the attempted authorized network connection, at least one of a report of an up-to-date virus scan of the client computer and a ~~confirmation~~ notification of enablement of the virus protector of the client computer.

17. (Canceled) .

18. (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein the virus monitor of the server further comprises:

a virus protector for scanning the client computer and files written by the client computer.

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19. (Currently Amended) A server comprising:

a controller;

a virus monitor including:

a virus protector with a scanning function;

a virus definition source; and

a quarantine monitor configured for:

preventing a client-server connection for at least one virus-susceptible client computer, by direct verifying verification between the quarantine monitor and the at least one virus-susceptible client computer, that the at least one virus-susceptible client computer has at least one of a disabled virus protector and a lack of a virus protector; and ~~configured for~~

tracking an identity of the at least one virus-susceptible client computer to prevent future attempted client-server connections when the at least one virus-susceptible client computer has a tendency to have a disabled virus protector or lack of a virus protector.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A computing network virus monitor comprising:

a virus protector including a virus identifier;

a quarantine monitor including a blocking mechanism configured for signaling the server to preventing network communications between to a server of a network and originating from each client computer that has a tendency to be is virus-infected or to be that is virus-susceptible by having at least one of a disabled virus protector and a virus definition set that is not up-to-date, and configured for tracking, via a client computer identifier, an identity of each virus-infected client computer and each virus-susceptible client computer having a tendency to be virus-infected or virus-susceptible enable activation of the blocking mechanism.

22-23. (Canceled)

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24. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of preventing network virus migration within a network, the method comprising:

monitoring a virus susceptibility of each client computer of the network to identify at least one virus susceptible client computer based on at least one of directly verifying that whether a virus protector of the client computer is enabled and that whether the client computer provides a server of the network with a valid virus scan report; and

tracking an address of each virus-susceptible client computer and at least one of preventing a client-server connection between each virus-susceptible client computer and the server and terminating a client-server connection between each virus-susceptible client computer and the server; and

establishing a quarantine of each virus-susceptible client computer to prevent further client-server connections by each quarantined virus-susceptible client computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of network computing, the method comprising:

using a virus monitor of a server with a virus monitor to identify at least one client computer that is susceptible to a virus by verifying, directly between the at least one client computer and the virus monitor of the server, that the at least one client computer has comprises at least one of:

a first combination of a client-server connection and a disabled status of a virus protector of the at least one client computer, the disabled status being verified via a direct status query from the virus monitor of the server to the at least one client computer; and

a second combination of an attempted client-server connection and a non-enabled status of the virus protector of the at least one client computer, the non-enabled status being verified via the at least one client computer failing to report enabled virus protection to the virus monitor of the server at the time of the attempted client-server connection; and

automatically isolating the at least one client computer from the server and from a computing network connected to the server by at least one of automatically terminating the client-server connection for the at least one client computer having the disabled status of the

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virus protector and automatically preventing the attempted client-server connection for the at least one client computer having a non-enabled status of the virus protector.

26-27. (Canceled)